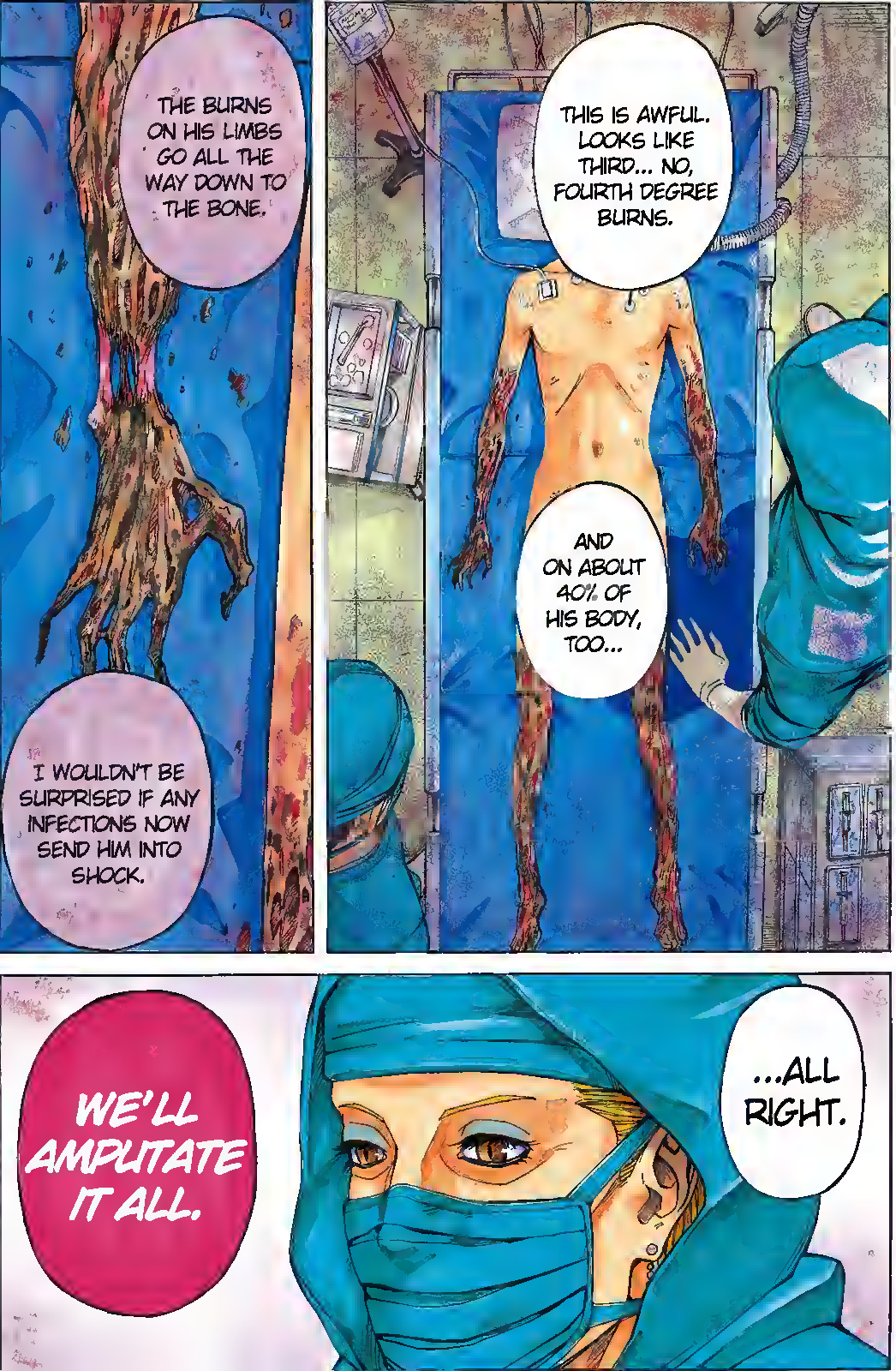
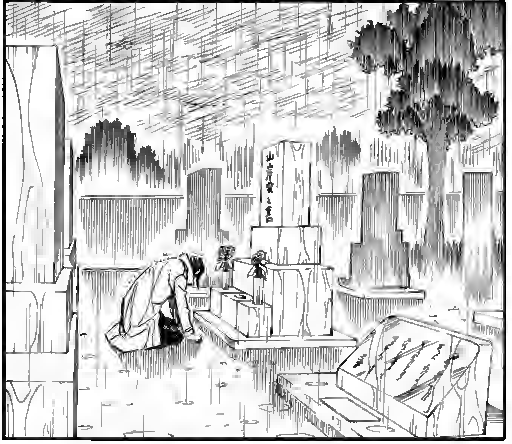
SUKEDACHI NINE
助太刀09


THE BURNS ON HIS LIMBS GO ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE BONE.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF ANY INFECTIONS NOW SEND HIM INTO SHOCK.
THIS IS AWFUL. LOOKS LIKE THIRD... NO, FOURTH DEGREE BURNS.
AND ON ABOUT 40% OF HIS BODY, TOO...
WE'LL AMPUTATE IT ALL.
...ALL RIGHT.

MIRROR: 14 "YUUJI (1)"

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!! HONEST TO GOD !!
WHY WON'T ANYONE BELIEVE ME?!
I DIDN'T MURDER ANYONE!! I'M INNO-CENT!!
YOU! HAVE TO STOP THIS!! I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF APPEAL-ING MY CASE!!
KTONG
NOTHI

BROTHER...
SKIFF
ジャリ



I'LL WIPE THE DEATH PENALTY OFF THIS EARTH!
Katsuya Yamagishi (age 33)

山岸家之墓
YAMAGISHI FAMILY GRAVE
THE PROSECUTORS... THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM... MUST PAY...
ONE DAY... I'LL WIPE IT OFF THIS EARTH...

Society for the Abolition of the Death Penalty
Human Rights Group "Inochi"
YAMAGISHI, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A FOIL IN THIS GUY, YOU BEING THE GUY WHO FOUNDED "INOCHI" AND ALL.
HE'S A FORMER MERC. THEY SAY HE'S GOT SOME PRETTY HIGH-LEVEL CONNECTIONS IN POLITICS AND LAW ENFORCE-MENT.
IT'S THIS MAN.
A NEW DEATH PENALTY...?
IS THAT NEW PEN-ALTY THE REASON?
...NEWS IS SPREADING THAT ARTICLE 36 OF THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE AMENDED.
THIS GUY...
...PROPOSED A NEW KIND OF DEATH PENALTY TO THE GOVERN-MENT.

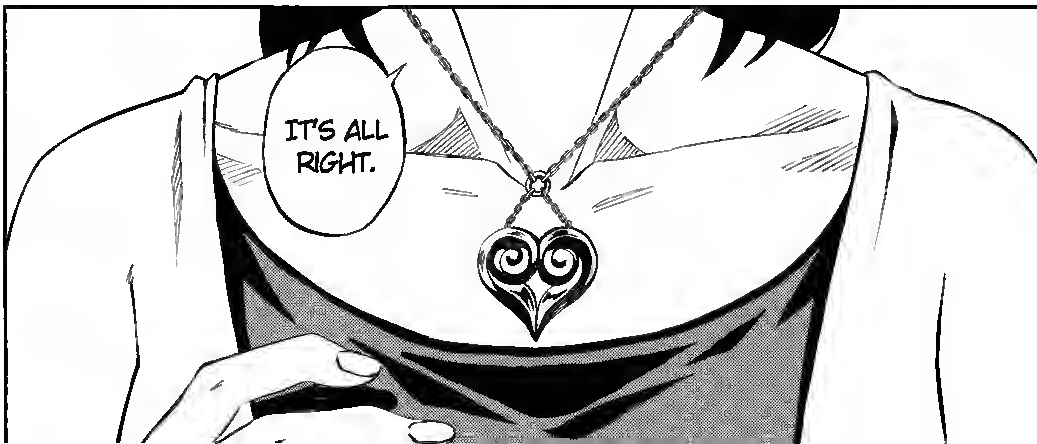
WE'VE GOT BOZOS IN THIS WORLD WHO SIMPLY WANT AN EASY WAY OFF THIS MORTAL COIL.
THE DEATH PENALTY'S A MISTAKE FROM THE GET-GO!
NEW OR OLD AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH IT!
REAL SINNERS OUGHT TO SUFFER FOR THEIR CRIMES FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.
AND IN CASES OF FALSE ACCUSATION, AT LEAST THE ACCUSED GETS TO LIVE!
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, BIG BROTHER WOULD STILL BE HERE...
...STILL THOUGH, FOR A NEW GUY, I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO BRING US THIS INFORMATION.
...UH... YOUR NAME IS...?
IT'S SAKURADA. NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.
Kazunari Sakurada (27)
.....

I'M HOME.
WELCOME BACK.
KCHK
...IS IT JUST YOU, YUUICHI ...?
AH! DAD! WELCO-
WHAM
YOU'RE NOT TO BE A SECOND LATE TO GREET THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE WHEN HE RETURNS.
LEARN FROM YOUR BROTHER HERE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME...

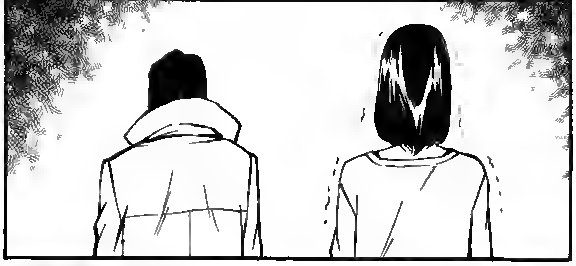
...YUUJI?!
Y-YES... SIR...

!
DON'T HIT THE KIDS, HONEY...!
URGH
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE UP AND ABOUT?

...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YUUJI?
IT REALLY STINGS.

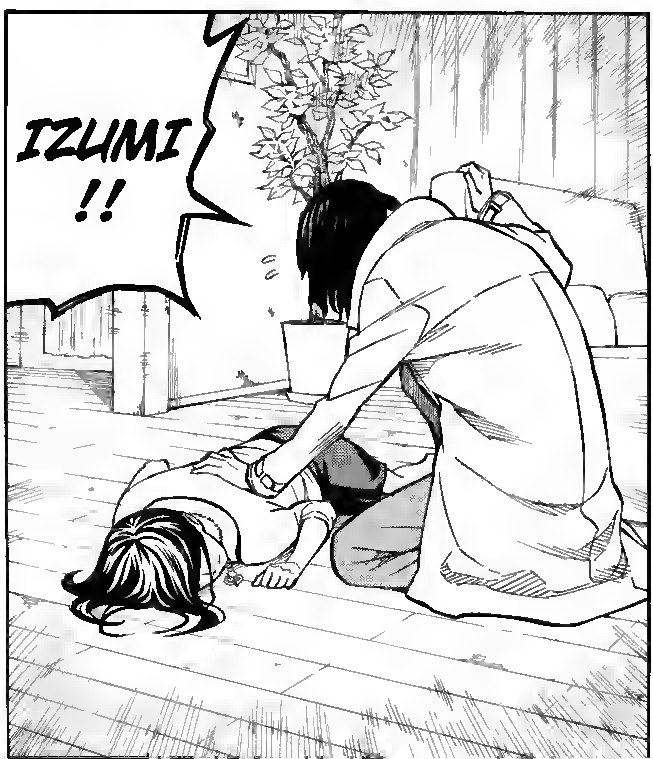

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

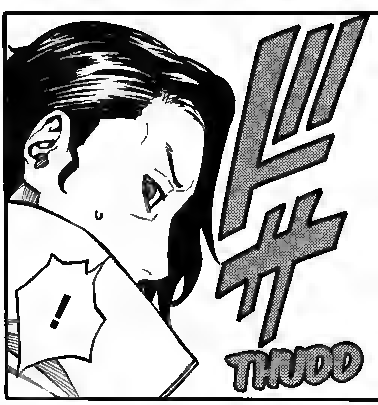
I'M FINE... TODAY'S A GOOD DAY.
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. IT'S ALREADY HARD ENOUGH WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BROTHER...
I COULDN'T STAND TO LOSE YOU, TOO.
DON'T CHANGE THE SUB-JECT!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TREAT YUUJI LIKE THIS?!
ALL I DID WAS CORRECT A DEFECT.
MY BROTHER AND I HAD NO PARENTS. IT WAS JUST US TWO GROWING UP.
SO THE MERE FACT THAT YUUJI HAS ME AROUND ALREADY MAKES HIM PRIVILEGED.
YOU DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND HOW PARENTS LOVE THEIR CHILDREN...
EVER SINCE YOU BECAME A FATHER, YOU NEVER COULD—
ENOUGH !!

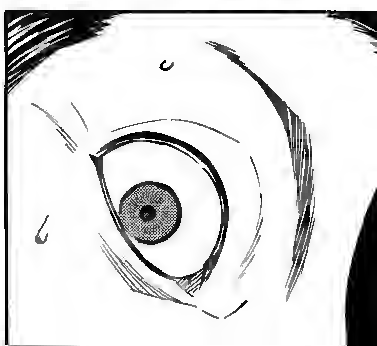


...HNG...

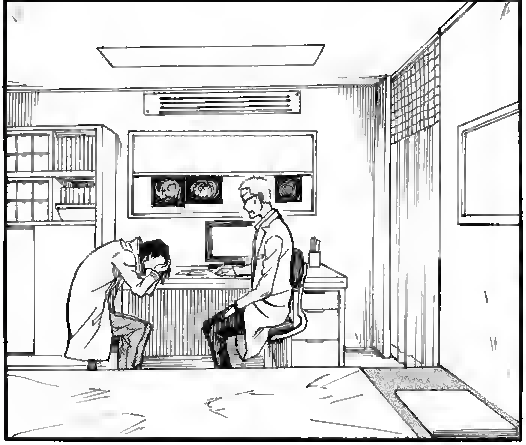
JUST...
...STOP, OKAY?

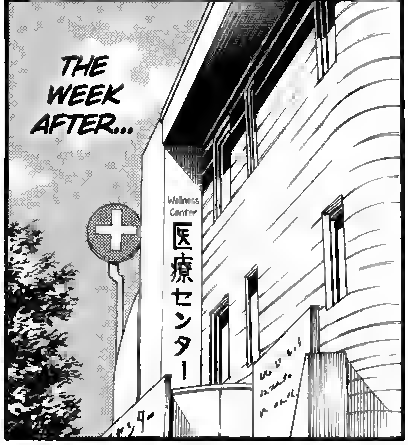

IZUMI !!


!
THUD

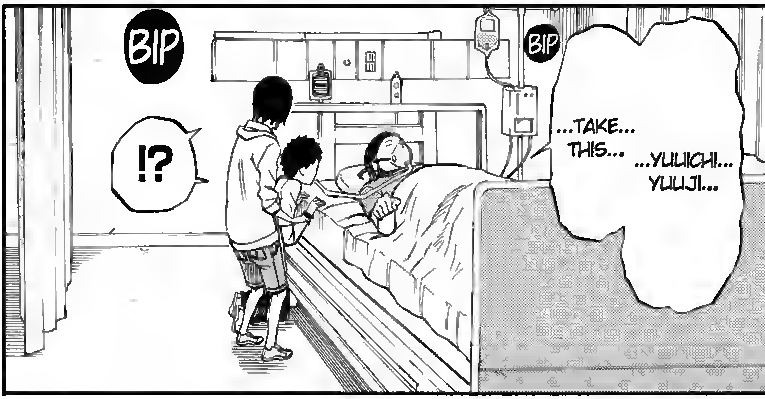


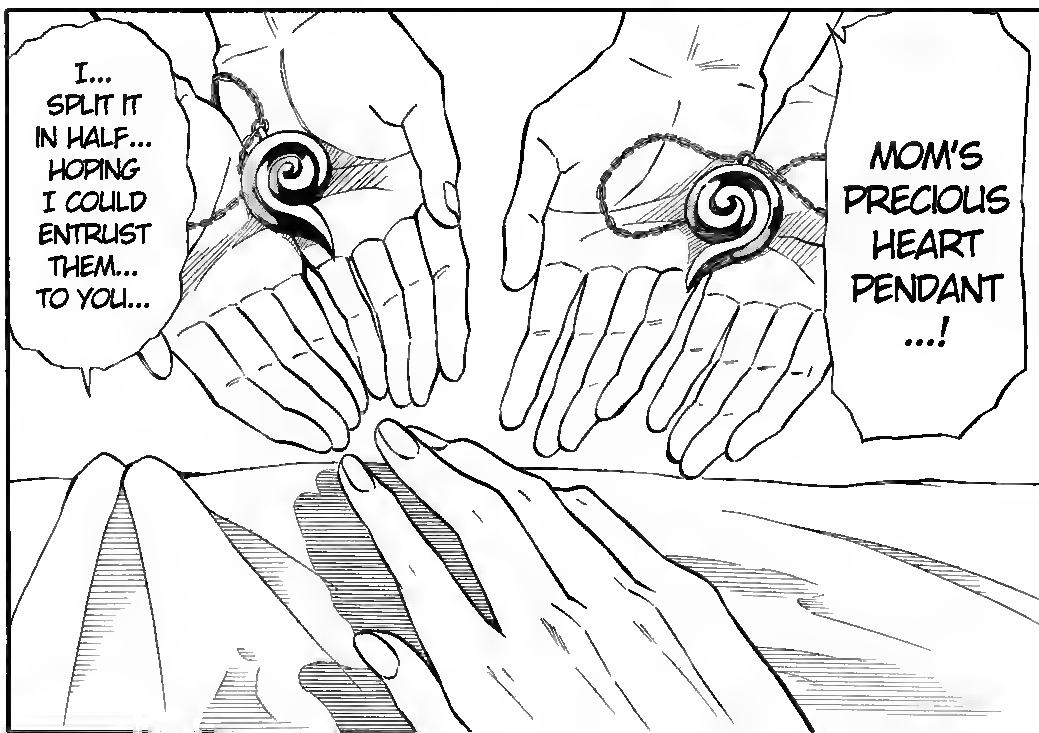
MOTHER ...?
IZUMI !!
WHAT'S UP, YUUJI?
MOM !!!



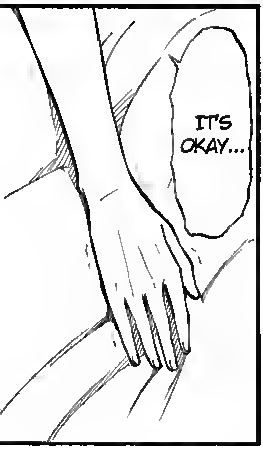

THE WEEK AFTER...
Wellness Centre
医療センター

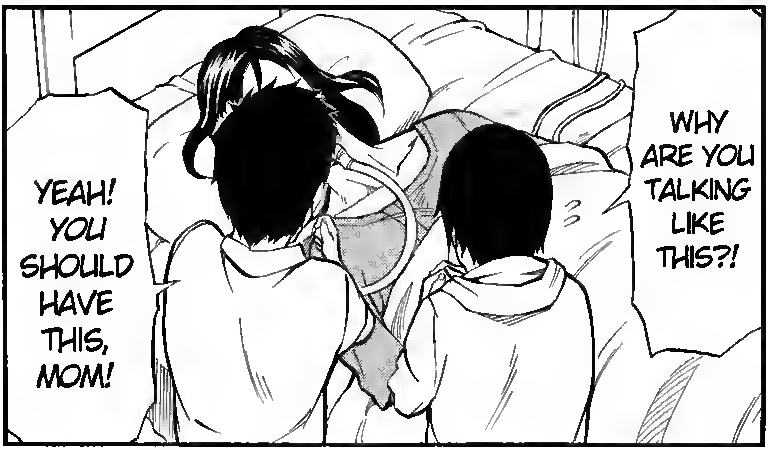
THIS IS...

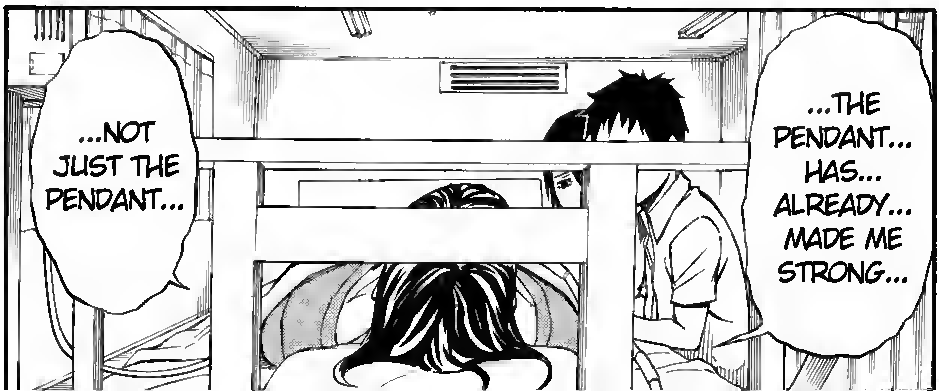

BIP
!?
BIP
...TAKE... THIS...
...YUUICHI... YUUJI...


I... SPLIT IT IN HALF... HOPING I COULD ENTRUST THEM... TO YOU...
MOM'S PRECIOUS HEART PENDANT ...!

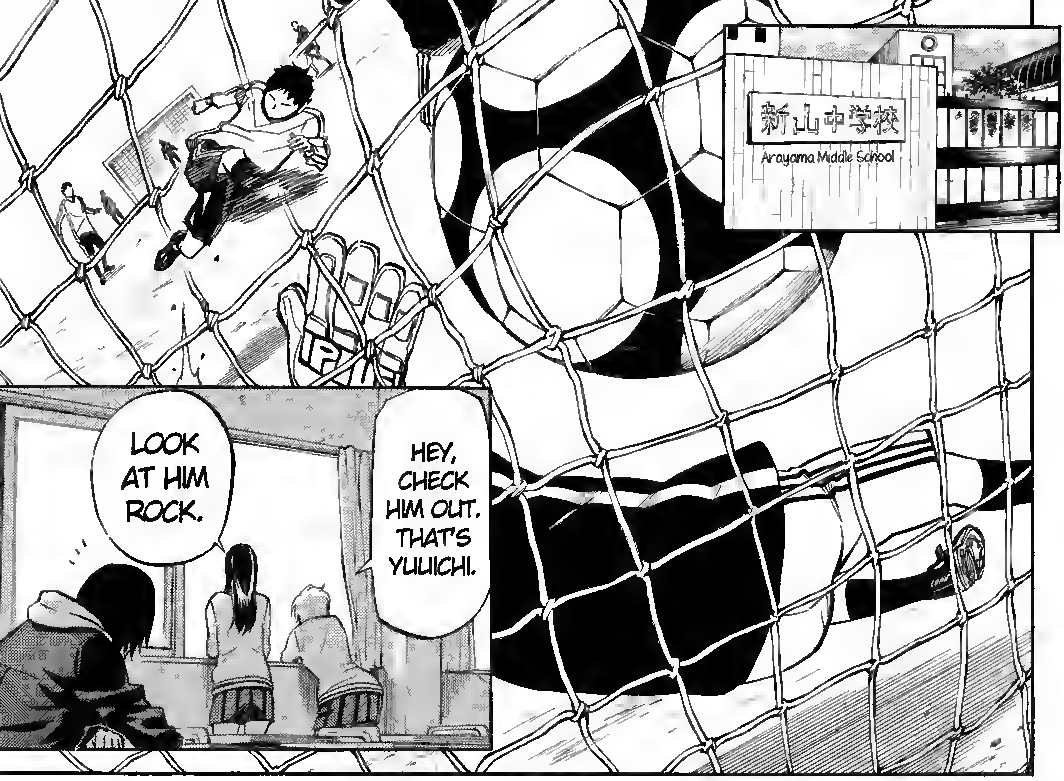
THIS... PENDANT... WILL...
...MAKE YOU... STRONG...

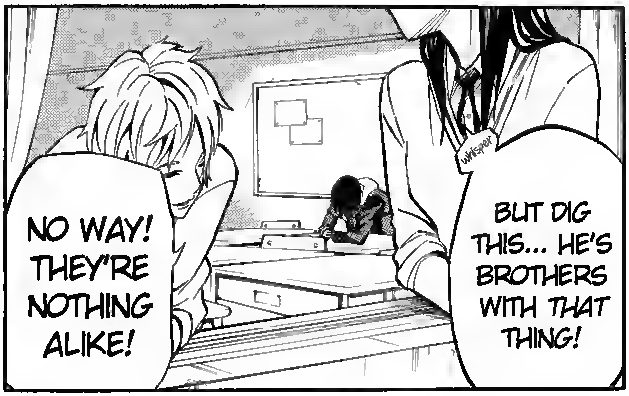

IT'S OKAY...

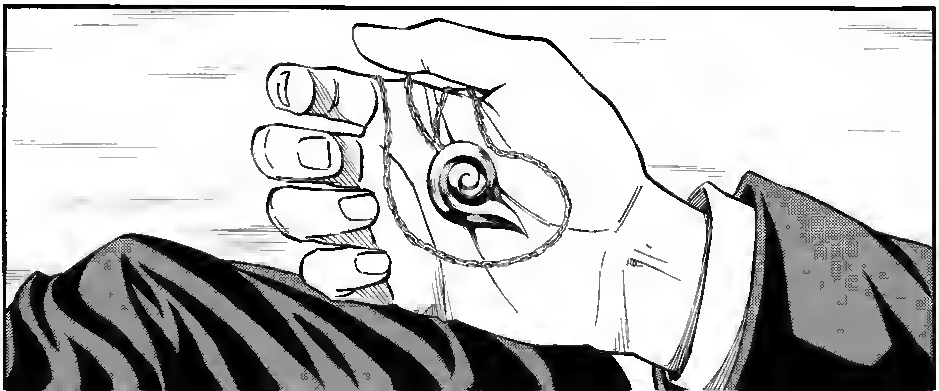

YEAH! YOU SHOULD HAVE THIS, MOM!
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THIS?!


...NOT JUST THE PENDANT...
...THE PENDANT... HAS... ALREADY... MADE ME STRONG...

...YOU BOYS... ALSO... MADE ME... STRONG...
...YET...
... SORRY...
... I'M... SO...

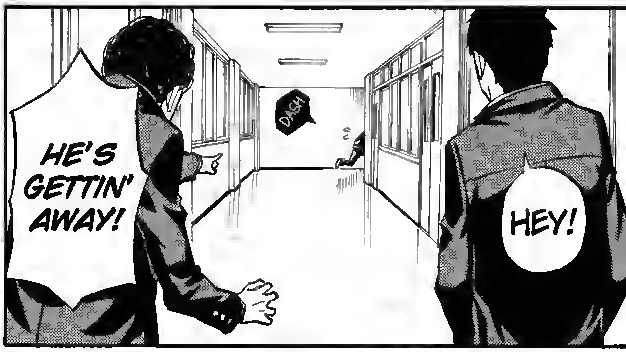

新山中学校
Arayama Middle School
HEY, CHECK HIM OUT. THAT'S YUUICHI.
LOOK AT HIM ROCK.

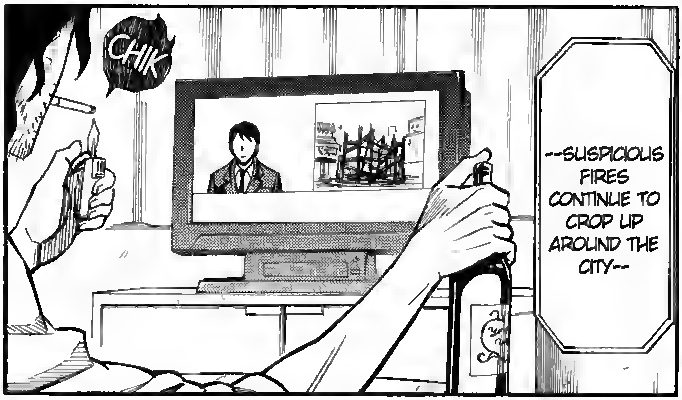

NO WAY! THEY'RE NOTHING ALIKE!
BUT DIG THIS... HE'S BROTHERS WITH THAT THING!

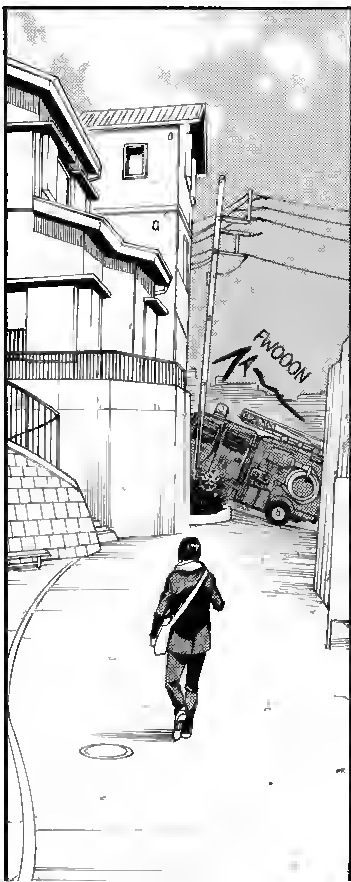


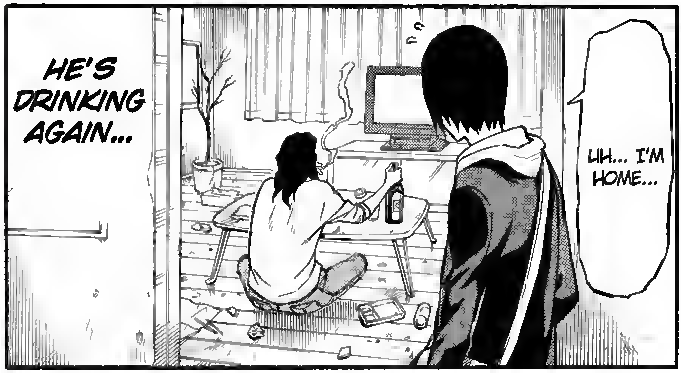
Ara-Middle School
新中学校

YUUJI-CHAN, LET'S HAVE A WORD, EH?
HEY!


HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
DASH
HEY!

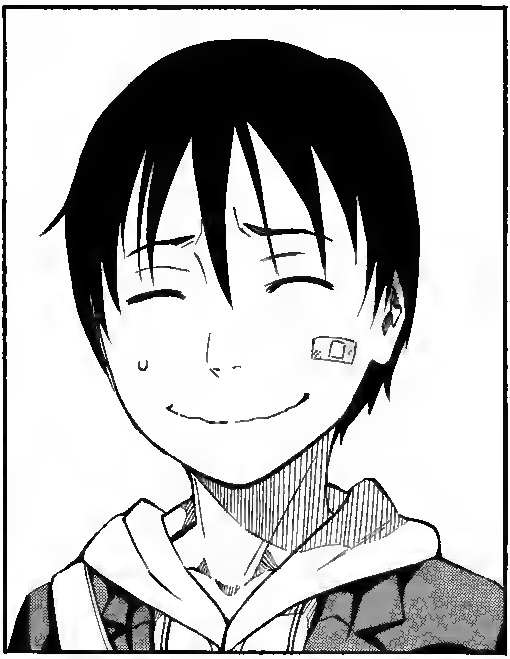

CHIK
--SUSPICIOUS FIRES CONTINUE TO CROP UP AROUND THE CITY--

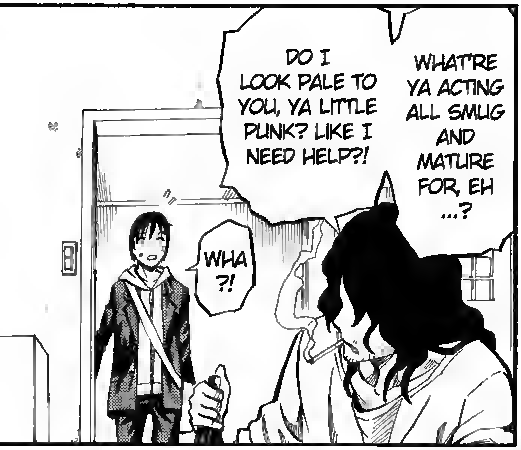

FWOOSH


HE'S DRINKING AGAIN...
UH... I'M HOME...

YUUJI, EH...?
Y- YEAH ..

TWITCH
ピク

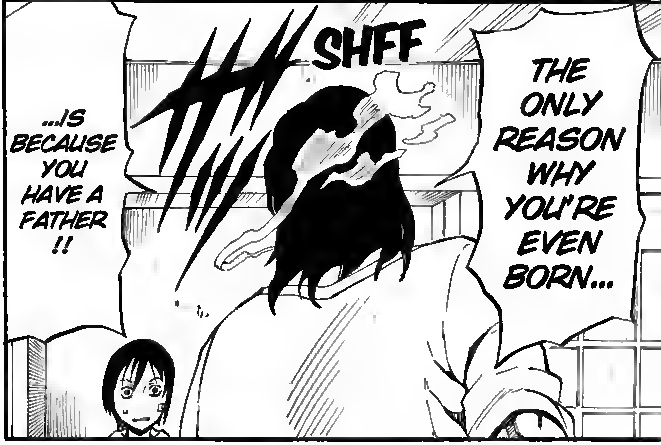



WHAT'RE YA ACTING ALL SMUG AND MATURE FOR, EH ...?
DO I LOOK PALE TO YOU, YA LITTLE PUNK? LIKE I NEED HELP?!
WHA ?!

YOU OUGHTTA RESPECT YOUR OWN FATHER MORE!!
YOU THINK I'M A FOOL?! IZZAT IT?!
CRUNCH
ギリ

STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT!!
SMASHH
ナグシャ

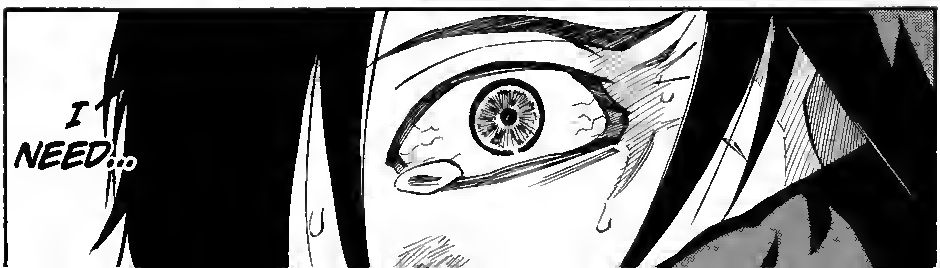
KICK
UNDER-STAND ?!
HGH !
THUDD


SHFF
THE ONLY REASON WHY YOU'RE EVEN BORN...
...IS BECAUSE YOU HAVE A FATHER !!

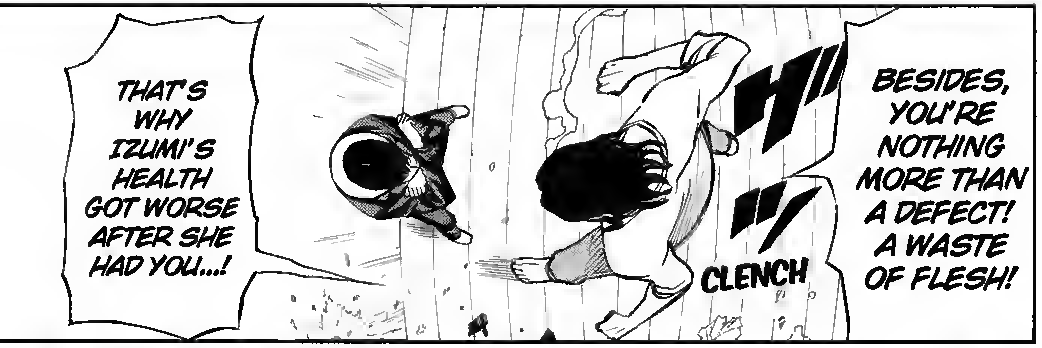
HE'S STARTED UP AGAIN...!!
AGAIN !!

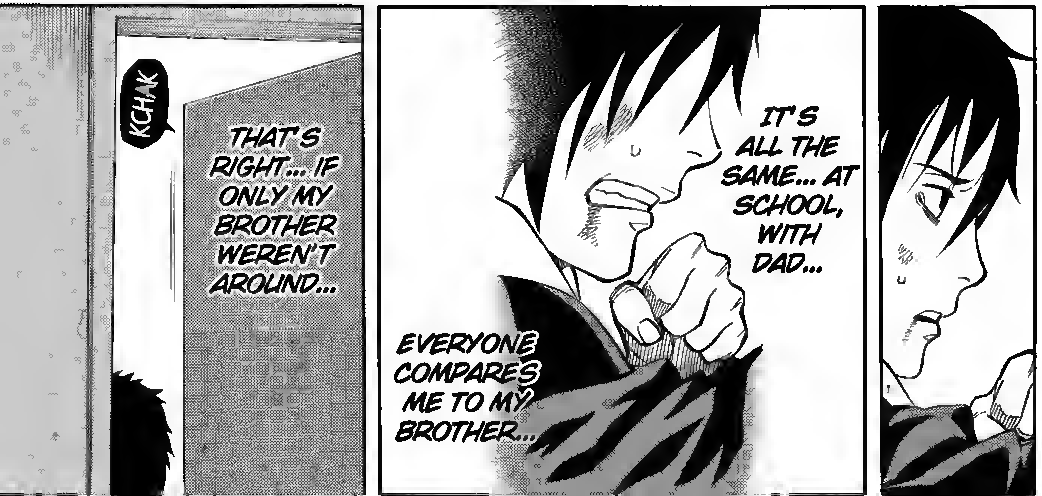
WHY IS HE EVEN A FATHER?! HE SCARES ME...! THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO HIM!!

WHAT'S TRIGGER-ING HIM?!
I DON'T GET HIM AT ALL...!


I NEED...

I NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TRIGGERS HIM, OR I'LL LOSE MY PLACE IN THIS WORLD...!
I NEED TO OBSERVE HIM... WITH EVERY SINGLE NERVE I GOT...


THAT'S WHY IZUMI'S HEALTH GOT WORSE AFTER SHE HAD YOU...!
CLENCH
BESIDES, YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A DEFECT! A WASTE OF FLESH!


KCHAK
THAT'S RIGHT... IF ONLY MY BROTHER WEREN'T AROUND...
EVERYONE COMPARES ME TO MY BROTHER...
IT'S ALL THE SAME... AT SCHOOL, WITH DAD...

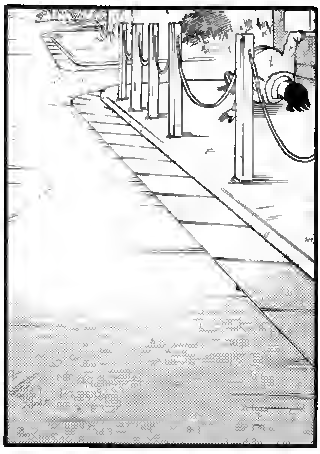
DASH
IF ONLY...
!!
THOKK
YUUICHI...
TSK... THERE GOES MY BUZZ...
YUUICHI...

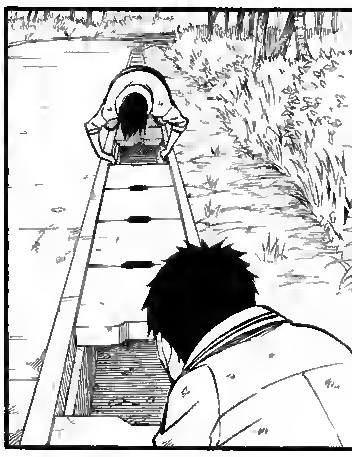
DON'T EVER RUN FROM US AGAIN, YUUJI!
ORAAH!
ORAAH!
SHFF
HGH!
KRAKK
YOU OKAY, YUUJI ...?
YUU-ICHI!!
!
ARE YOU PICKING ON HIM, KNOWING HE'S MY BROTHER?
TSK!
LET'S GO...!
DAM-MIT!

WHY WON'T YOU FIGHT BACK? EYE FOR AN EYE, MAN.
I'M OKAY, REALLY... IT'S NOT LIKE WHEN DAD BEATS ME UP...
HA HA!
WHAT ...?
THANKS, THOUGH... YOU'RE ALWAYS WATCHING AFTER ME...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! DID THEY GET YOU IN THE HEAD TOO?!
I KNOW NOW, BRO... YOU ARE...
...MY HERO!

GRIP
...IS THE POWER THAT MOM'S PENDANT GIVES YOU.
MAYBE THE FACT THAT YOU REFUSE TO HURT OTHERS...
SHINK
!
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?
HEH HEH... YOU'RE JOKING...
SHUFF
MY PENDANT'S GOOOONE !!
EH?
I MUST'VE DROPPED IT WHILE RUNNING AWAY FROM THOSE THUGS...
IT'S... GONE...

SHIFF



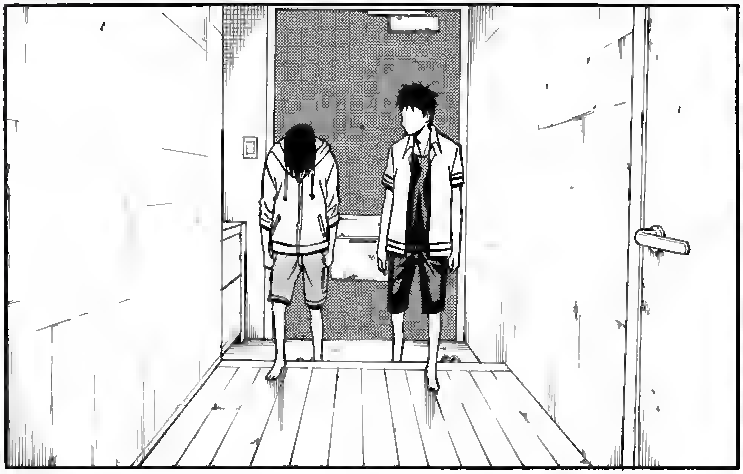


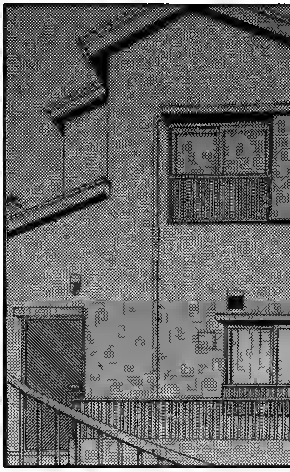
WE'VE DONE ALL WE COULD TODAY...
WE REALLY OUGHTTA GO HOME, OR DAD'S GOING TO BEAT YOU TO A PULP AGAIN.

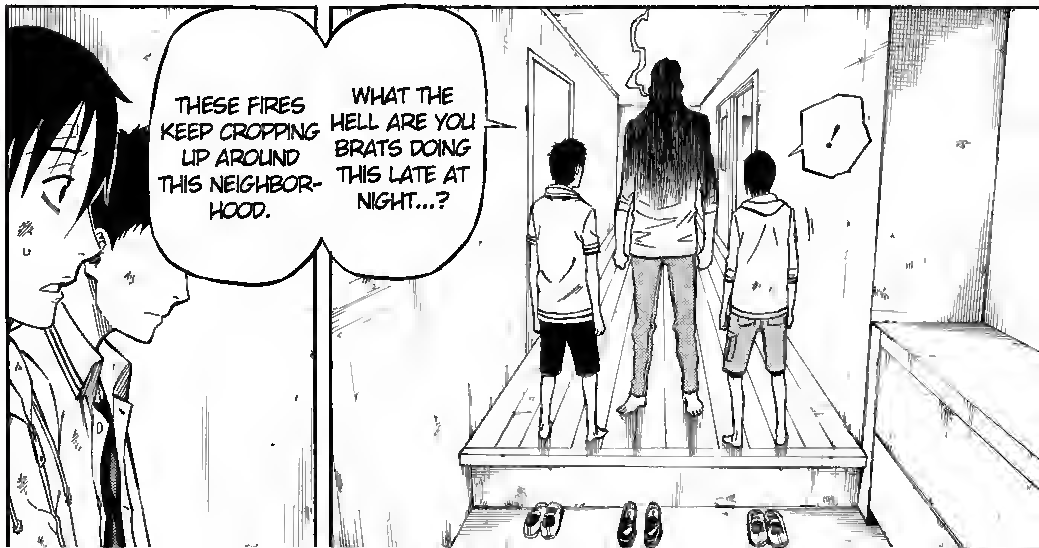
YUUJI...

YOU GO HOME FIRST, BRO. WE'RE STILL HERE BECAUSE OF ME.
I'LL KEEP LOOKING BY MYSELF.
I'M MORE SCARED ABOUT GOING HOME WITHOUT THE PENDANT.
THEN LET ME TALK TO DAD ABOUT THIS.
I'M NOT SCARED OF BEING KNOCKED AROUND BY DAD...
WITHOUT THE PENDANT, IT'LL BE LIKE I LOST MOM ALL OVER AGAIN...
.....
OH WELL... GUESS WE BETTER GET KNOCKED AROUND TOGETHER.
!
.....
YOU REALLY ARE MY HERO, BRO.
Heh heh.

WOOOOO
WOOOOO
BUT IT'S TOO DARK TO REALLY SEE ANY-THING.



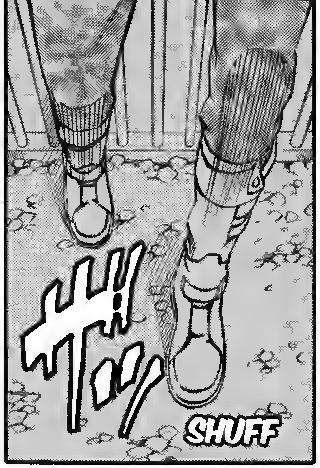



THESE FIRES KEEP CROPPING UP AROUND THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU BRATS DOING THIS LATE AT NIGHT...?
!

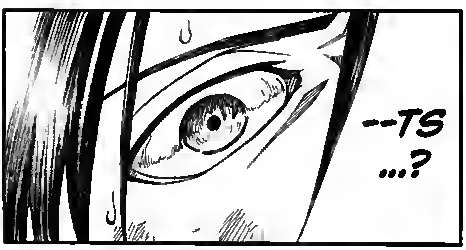
I LOST MOM'S PENDANT OUTSIDE... SO I...
...NO, I LOST SOMETHING REALLY PRECIOUS, AND I--
...YOU GUYS HAVEN'T BEEN STARTING FIRES, HAVE YOU?
I GET IT...
SO YOU TWO WERE LOOKING FOR IT ALL THIS TIME?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAD TO BE THE DEFECT YOU ARE, YUUJI!!
KOKK

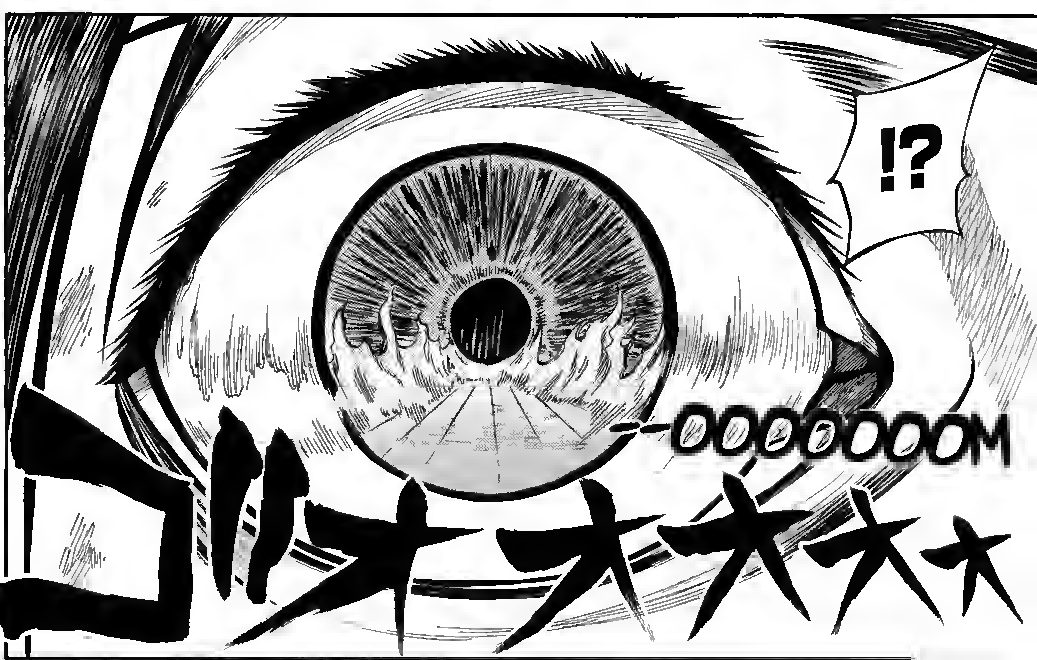
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY...
MOTHER...
...YOUR PEN-DANT...
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T FIND...
GRIPP
KRAKK
THOKK
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO IF THEY LOOK AT US FOR ARSON, EH?!
DO YOU WANT TO GET THIS FAMILY INTO MORE TROUBLE?!

DAD...
MOVE IT, YULICHI...
SQUEEZE ヴヴヴ
WHERE'S MY HERO?
YULI...
I...
CHI...



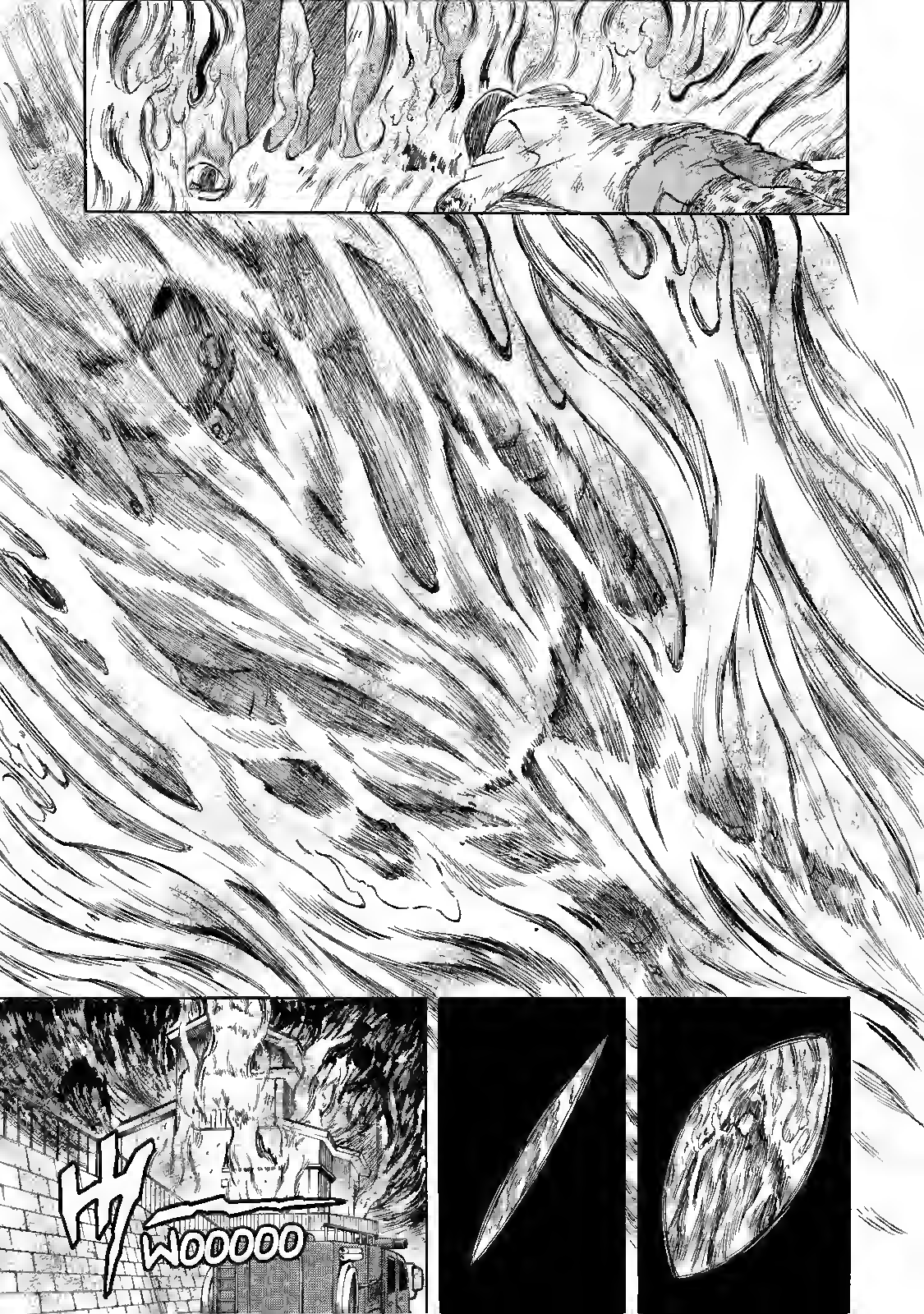
IT
HURTS...

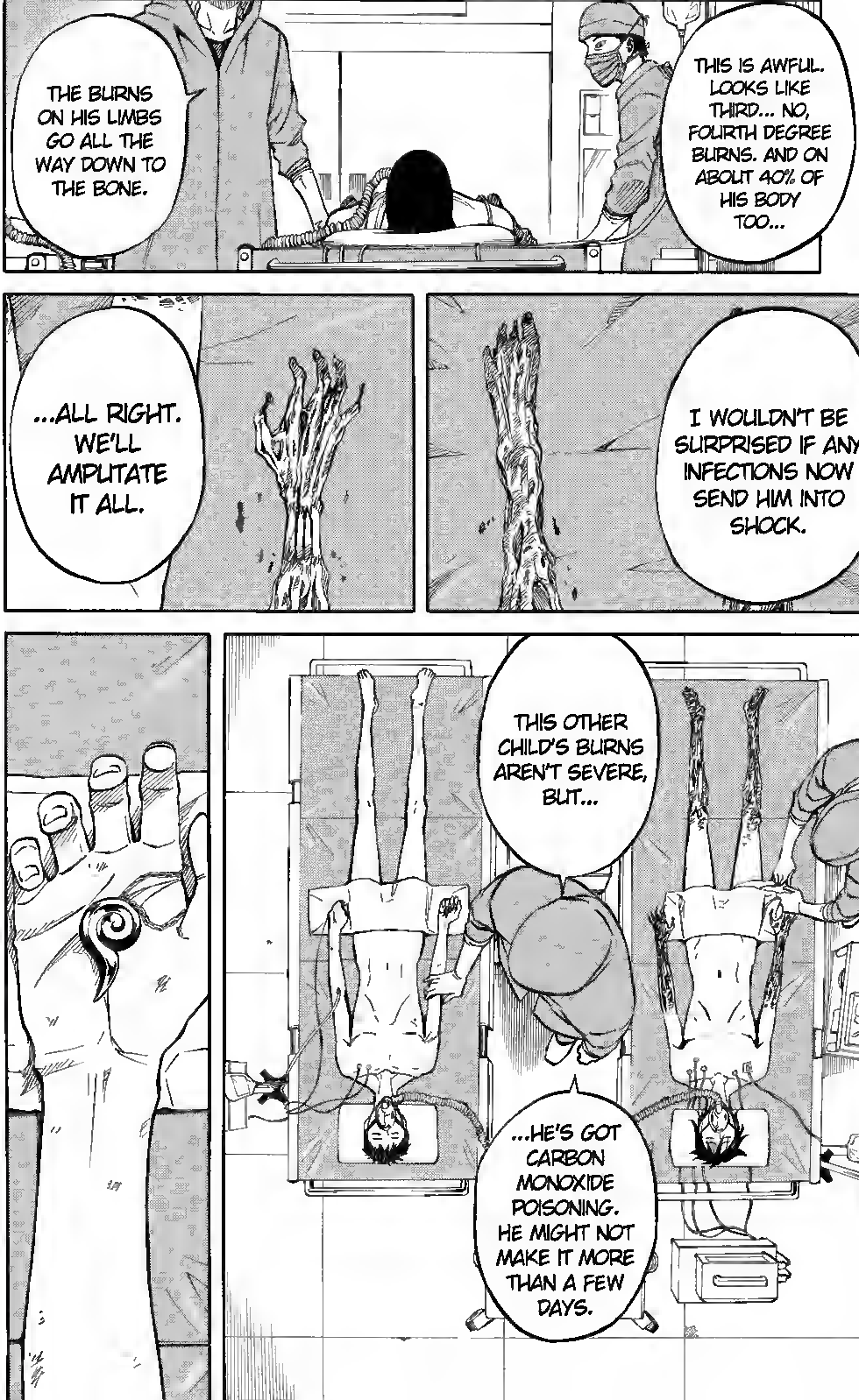




...IS THIS ?!
WHAT THE HELL...
HGH ...!
GGH... HHGH...
SIZZLE
AA AA AAH !!
FWOOM
WAKE UP!!
BROTH-ER!

I MUST... SAVE...
DRAGG
DAMMIT... I MUST SAVE HIM...
ZSHOOOM
DON'T DIE ON ME, BROTH-ER...!!
YUUICHI!
FWOOM

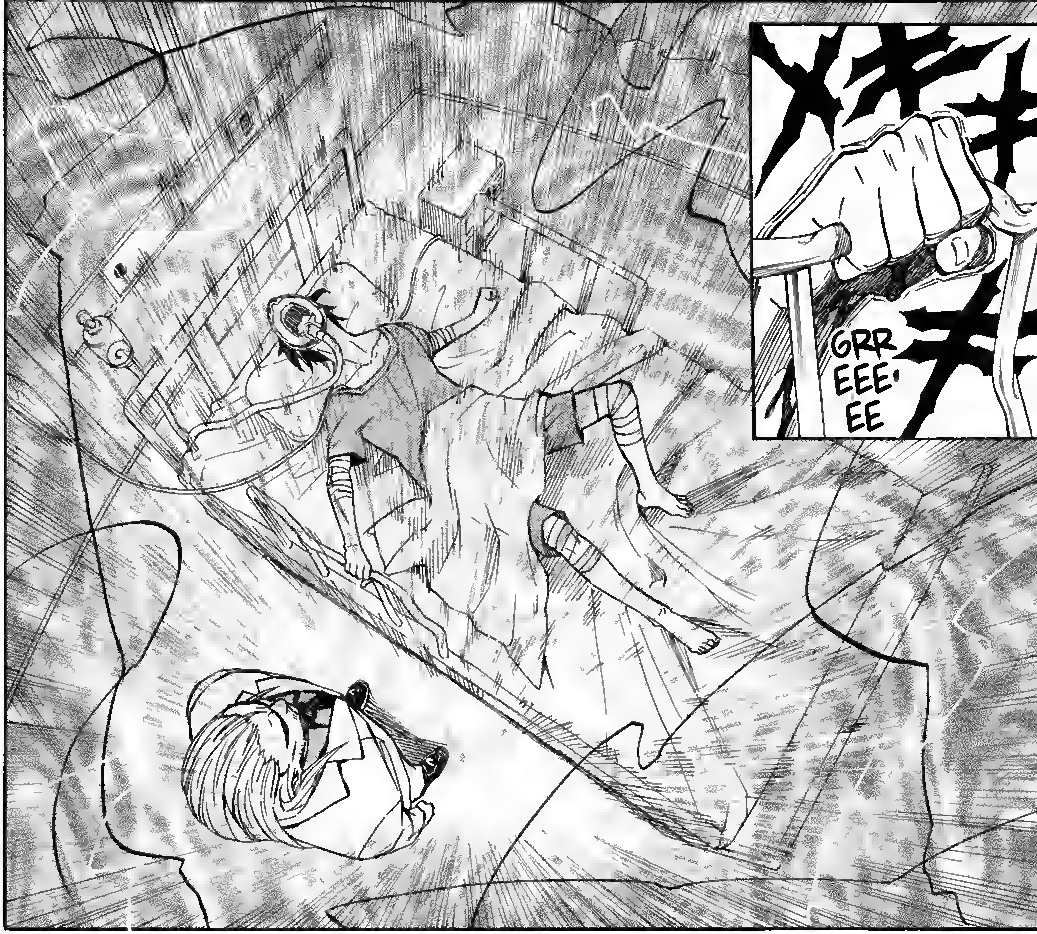

WOOOOO


THE BURNS ON HIS LIMBS GO ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE BONE.
THIS IS AWFUL. LOOKS LIKE THIRD... NO, FOURTH DEGREE BURNS. AND ON ABOUT 40% OF HIS BODY TOO...
...ALL RIGHT. WE'LL AMPUTATE IT ALL.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF ANY INFECTIONS NOW SEND HIM INTO SHOCK.
THIS OTHER CHILD'S BURNS AREN'T SEVERE, BUT...
...HE'S GOT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING. HE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT MORE THAN A FEW DAYS.

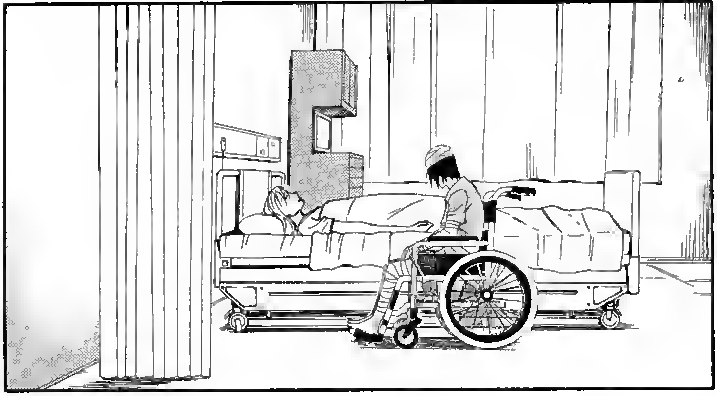
THESE BOYS... ARE BROTHERS.
ON TOP OF THAT...
RUB RUB
...IT MAY BE WORTH TRYING IT OUT.
I'M SO HAPPY THAT SUCH SPLENDID RESEARCH MATERIALS ENDED UP IN MY HANDS...
AAAAHH!! MY AAARM?!

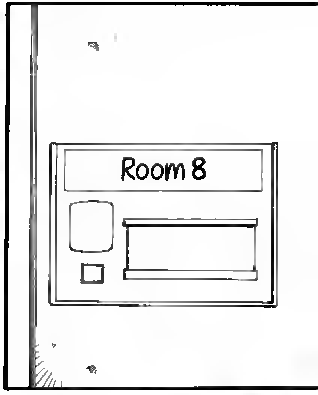
GRIPPP
BUT... WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT IS THIS... FEELING...
THROBB
THANK GOD... WHAT A TERRIBLE DREAM...
MY ARM...
YUUICHI'S PENDANT...
!?
PITTER
YOU'LL NEED TO TRAIN YOUR BODY TO LIMIT ITS POWER OUTPUT.
...THAT FIST IS CLENCHED HARD ENOUGH TO MAKE IT BLEED.
YOU CAN THINK OF ME AS JUST "ODA" FOR NOW.
IT'S BECAUSE YOUR ARMS LACK ANY SENSATION OF PAIN, YUUJI YAMAGISHI...
WHO ARE YOU?!
!!
HOW... DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY DREAM...
YOU FAINTED WHEN YOU SAW THE SIGHT OF YOUR ONCE-LOST ARM...

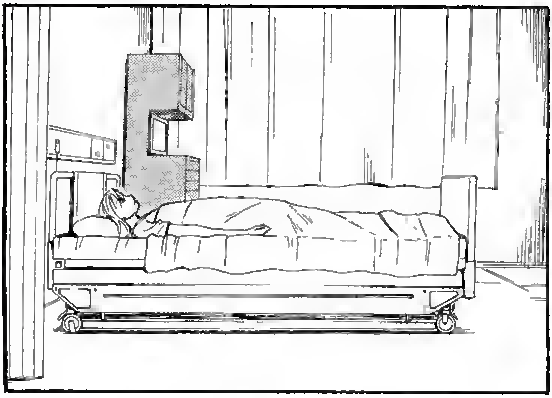
TWITCH
THIS IS REALITY!
A FIRE... IT WASN'T A DREAM ...?
...HE LEFT THIS WORLD, AFTER GIVING YOU HIS ARMS AND LEGS.
YUUICHI! WHERE'S MY BROTHER?!
GRAB
A DREAM, EH... HE MUST BE CONFUSED...
CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME...
WE FOUND YOUR FATHER'S BODY AT THE SITE OF THE FIRE.
AS FOR YOUR BROTHER, YUUICHI...
...THREE DAYS AFTER WE PULLED HIM OUT OF THE FIRE...


GRR
EEE,
EE

THUDD
HGH!
CLUNK
I'VE BEEN IN REHAB FOR FOUR YEARS, ALREADY...
DAMMIT, TRIPPED AND FELL ON MY HEAD AGAIN.
My forehead can still feel pain.
CHING
THEY CALLED IT THE "W" INCIDENT OR SOMETHING...
THAT GIRL IN ROOM NO. 8 SURVIVED A HORRIFIC MASS MURDER.




Room 8



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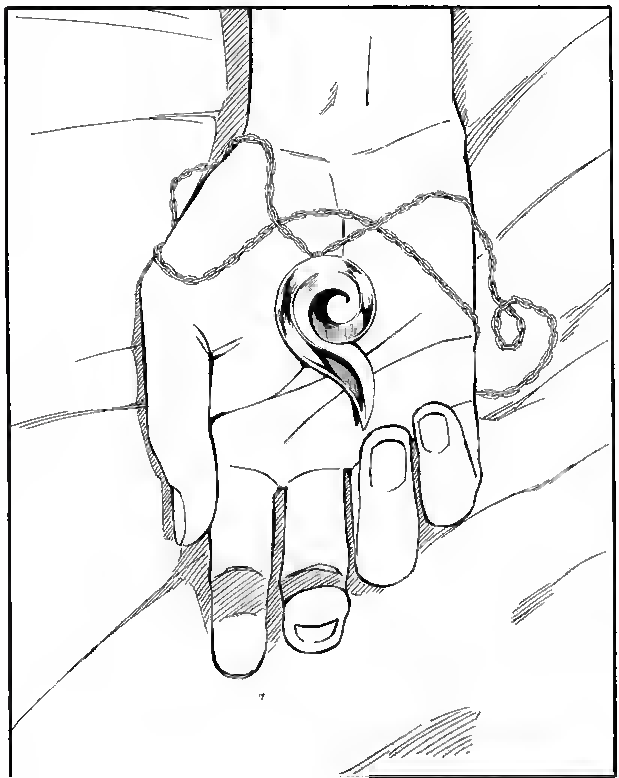
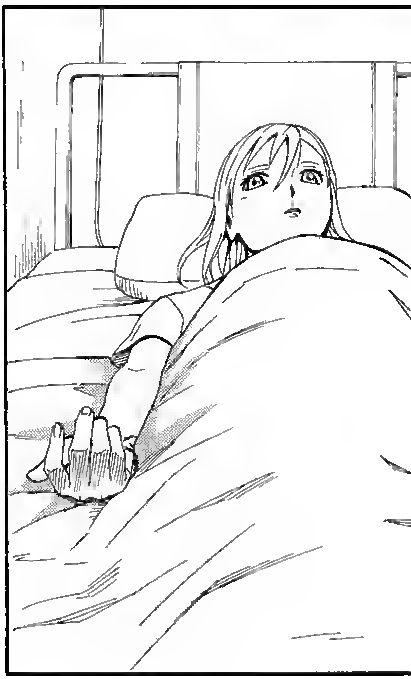


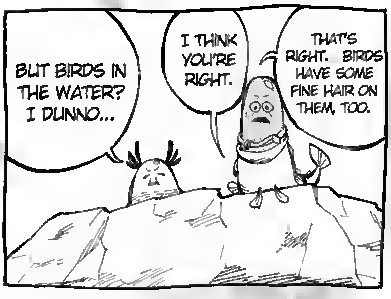


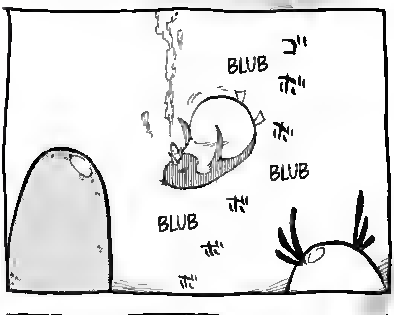
I'M SORRY, MOM... YOUR PENDANT'S GIVEN ME ENOUGH STRENGTH.
NOW I WANT TO HELP OTHERS WHO'RE VICTIMS LIKE ME, AND THEIR FAMILIES.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M NOT ALONE.
CREAK
THERE'S A HERO WITHIN THIS BODY.
TENSE
THAT'S WHY...
...I CAN STAND TALL.

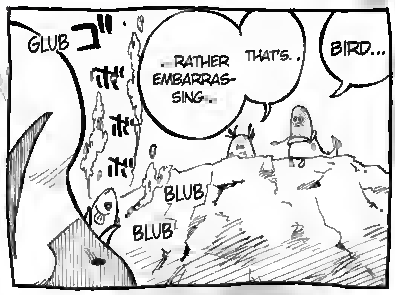
MENTAI KO KYU

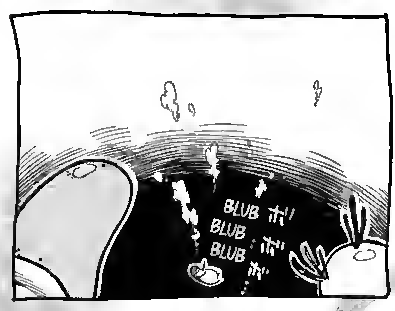
明太子の9ちゃん

UNDERWATER AVIAN

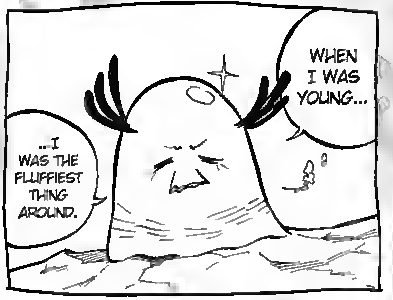


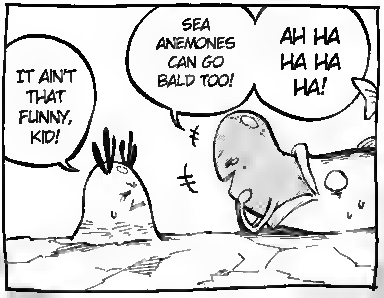


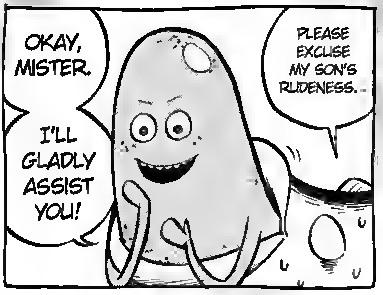


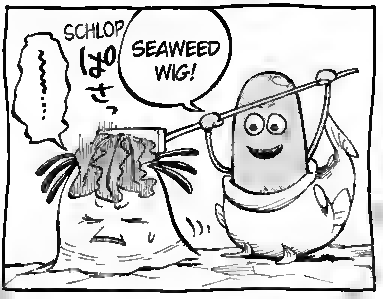


AN OLD MAN'S WORRIES









BONUS 4-KOMA MENTAIKO NO KYU-CHAN 14

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